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"The reader what is reason's due believes;
Nor can we call that false which not deceives."

*Lansdowne.*

AMONG the different theories proposed by philosophers to account for the formation of organized bodies, there is one which refers the mechanism of the animal and vegetable worlds to the gradual influence of *appetency*. Man, say these writers, was originally little more than a misshapen mass,—the depo-site, perhaps, of a stagnant pool, or a heap of fermenting matter, baked and concocted by the rays of the sun. He might have had a mouth, which instinctively imbibed from his mother earth the juices necessary to repair the decays of nature; but he probably possessed neither legs, nor arms, nor organs of sense. He perceived how necessary certain appendages were to confer on him an existence tolerably comfortable—and by a series of struggles, extending through a long succession of generations, to acquire the faculty of locomotion, and to grasp the objects which lay in his reach, excrescences began to grow, which at length attained the full size and regular organization of hands and feet. He was originally blind and deaf, and probably destitute of smell; but perceiving how convenient it would be to distinguish objects at a distance that might annoy him, and to hold conversation with his friends, his appetencies at length raised two slight projections at the bottom of his forehead, and bored a pair of holes in the sides of his head, which the appetencies of his posterity have at length improved into finished organs of sight and hearing.

By reasoning from analogy, it appears that other animals must have derived their origin from a similar source. The

most ancient fishes, were probably nothing more than a pair of mud-rolls; but influenced by the laudable desire of bettering their condition, and well aware of the perfectibility which is the invariable result of a long continued series of appetencies, they have gradually shot out fins, blown up air bladders, and done whatever else was necessary to raise themselves to a suitable rank in the scale of being.

Whatever credit some may be disposed to allow to this theory, I doubt not that most have been occasionally tempted to wish that it might be true. What a privilege must it be to some of our race, to be able, by the mere force of appetency, to repair a decayed nose, or to replace a lost ear! Could the earnest longings of appetency, plied through day and night, repair the sad inroads of age, what quantities of rouge, and other anti-corrugatives, must remain in the hands of the coiffeur unsold! how many dentists and perfumers must be reduced to want and beggary!

But I see that my proneness to moralize has led me astray from my main design. Tradition says that that noted voyager Captain Lemuel Gulliver, wrote several books of travels, besides those which now go under his name; but they have been generally believed by the learned to be irrecoverably lost. I have the pleasure to inform the curious reader that a fragment of one of these books has been at length recovered, which is herewith submitted for his amusement, precisely as it stands in the original manuscript. It will be seen from the progress of the narrative, that Captain Gulliver, before the time of his last voyage, had come in possession of a pair of wings; and as this circumstance may have an air of improbability with it in the minds of some, I was willing to show them how, according to the opinions of the most enlightened philosophers, such a difficulty might be obviated.* The smattering of philosophy which he now and then affects, may seem out of character to those who are familiar with his earlier productions; but I

* Several anachronisms may be perceived in the progress of the narrative. I might have expended much learning upon them; but I dared not venture on conjectural emendation, and I feared that no attempt to clear them up, however ingenious, would prove altogether satisfactory.

ascribe this to some acquaintance which he might have had in his later years with his illustrious cotemporary, Sir Isaac Newton. As these notions were then new, a little pedantry in his allusions to them was the more excusable. Thus much I have thought fit to advertise the reader of, by way of preface: he shall be detained no longer from the narrative itself.

"AT first," begins the Captain, rather abruptly, "I made quite an awkward figure in managing my new instruments of loco-motion. I found a difficulty in keeping myself well poised, and when I rose more than a few score yards, my head was apt to swim; so that for some time I seldom attempted any thing more than to cross a river or a hedge, when it came in my way;—or perhaps by way of diversion to perch on the top of a steeple, and to pounce down all of a sudden upon some unsuspecting stranger who might be passing in the street below. But as I continued to improve by practice, I began seriously to think of turning my newly acquired powers to some valuable purpose; and no enterprize appeared more useful or important to my fellow beings than to travel and collect information from remote parts of the universe. The success of the undertaking was rendered somewhat doubtful by the difficulty of carrying provisions for so long a journey; but thinking there might possibly be some unknown way of subsisting in the mundane spaces, I concluded it would be at least safe to make the experiment; and in case of danger from starving, the worst that could befal me would be, the necessity of abandoning the design. Accordingly I laid in provisions for one week; and as I knew not how far I might be led into the outer and colder regions of the solar system, I had the precaution to take, in addition to my ordinary clothing, a suit of flannel, and a new pair of Dutch blankets. These, with about fifty dollars in cash, a log-book, a small but very good spy-glass, and a few trinkets to be disposed of as presents to the natives, (if I should be so fortunate as to meet any,) constituted my whole travelling apparatus. Having made fast these articles in such a manner as to impede my motions as little as possible, I took my departure about ten o'clock in the evening; not caring to

make myself an object of public curiosity. I rose, as I should judge, about seven or eight miles with very little fatigue; but the atmosphere became so much rarer, (the earth's attraction in the mean time not sensibly diminishing,) that my ascent became more and more laborious; and I repeatedly thought, in the course of the succeeding twenty-four hours, that I must forever give over the hope of rising to any considerable height. However, I found that the air, as it became rarer, gave me a degree of elasticity and vigour I had never before experienced; so that by putting forth my utmost efforts, I at length got myself pretty well clear of the earth's attraction.—I was now at liberty to stop and take breath, and had leisure to survey the novel and majestic scene which unfolded itself to my view. The deep black sky above and below me, bespangled with innumerable lucid points,—the sun partly behind me, shining with intense but rayless majesty,—and the distant earth, intercepting the view of the stars over the space of several constellations, and presenting a faintly illuminated crescent on the side next the sun—all united to produce the most overwhelming emotions of grandeur and sublimity. From the absence of the atmosphere, the sun and stars were shorn of the splendour which had encircled them: the former was a perfectly defined disk; the latter were mere points, differing only in intensity of light. From this circumstance, I had at first some difficulty in distinguishing the constellations; but a little habit made me perfectly at home in them.

My reader will by this time be anxious to learn how I succeeded in maintaining life and health, deprived as I was of air, food, and lodging. I do not know that I shall be able to give him entire satisfaction on this point. It appeared, however, that the ethereal medium which surrounded me, although vastly rarer than the gross terrestrial atmosphere, yet contained oxygen enough for the maintenance of the vital principle. It also seemed in some measure to supply the other demands of animal nature. In this pure medium, the waste occasioned by perspiration and the other evacuations was reduced almost to nothing, so that I never had occasion to broach more than a quarter of my week's allowance;—although, not knowing what

might befal me before my return, I carefully preserved the remainder. I did indeed grow rather thin in flesh from my long abstinence; but this circumstance was quite in my favour, for it enabled me to make much more rapid progress than would have been possible to one weighed down with a superfluous load of gravitating matter.

The success of the experiment appeared so very doubtful when I left the earth, that I had formed no particular plan concerning either my route or place of final destination;—but left it to be settled when I should have acquired some experience in aerial travelling, and reached a convenient station for reconnoitring the celestial bodies. Very obvious reasons presented themselves for not attempting a visit to the sun. I might have touched at the moon without difficulty: but I had read of nothing connected with the moon but dreary wastes, abysses, and volcanoes; and it was natural to conclude that the people, if there were any, must partake of the same gloomy and inhospitable character. An additional objection was, that their long and damp nights might prove a serious injury to my constitution.—The planet Jupiter offered itself as one in which the operations of nature and art might be witnessed on a grand scale;—the succession of day and night was such as I had always been used to; and I thought, if I could contrive to land on the torrid zone, that little was to be apprehended from the severity of the weather. But what gave it the decided preference in my circumstances, was its being constantly in sight;—while the other bodies of the system, from their smallness, were frequently invisible, and would thus have given one much trouble in steering his course towards them.

In order to keep a correct account of my progress, it became necessary to ascertain my general rate of travelling. From a number of trials, accurately made, it appeared that my medium rate of moving, when all circumstances were about as favourable as usual, was two hundred and sixty leagues an hour. This may appear incredible to some; but it must be recollected that I was now freed from all the sources of retardation which render our motions here on the earth's surface so comparatively slow. The etherial medium was

barely dense enough to enable me to ply my wings with advantage, and every new impulse communicated a new degree of speed;—just as a grindstone (as every child knows) may be made to revolve with surprising swiftness by the continued application of a very moderate force. By thus getting my average motion, knowing my point of compass by the fixed stars, and correcting my dead reckoning by an occasional observation of the sun's apparent diameter, or (when it could be had) of the earth's greatest elongation, I was generally able to tell my place in the *Magnus orbis* within a few hundred thousand miles: a degree of accuracy amply sufficient for every practical purpose.

I was generally on the wing a time, as nearly as I could estimate, of about fifteen hours: the remaining nine I folded myself up in my blankets and made an artificial night, (for the sun was always equally in sight,) during which I enjoyed undisturbed rest. Each of my waking intervals was entered in the log-book as a new day; but I afterwards found that they did not exactly correspond with terrestrial time. By sleeping and waking on an average a little too long, I lost seventeen whole days out of my reckoning; so that the time of my return, which was the 3d of October, was entered in my journal as the 16th of September.

I was very little disturbed in my motions by any of the celestial bodies except the sun. During the day time, indeed, I perceived even this in but a very trifling degree, as I was moving rapidly in the opposite direction—but I lost ground very sensibly every night, and fell so far towards the sun that it required one or two hours' brisk exertion the next morning to recover my place.

It will be naturally supposed that throughout the whole excursion I was favoured with remarkably fine weather. I do not recollect any instance in which the sun and stars were entirely obscured; and not more than two or three in which there was even a haziness in the expanse about me. The few exceptions to a perfectly clear sky which are noted down in my journal might perhaps be owing to the tail of some comet

which happened to come near. As the comets and myself, however, were journeying in opposite directions, they in quest of the sun, and I of Jupiter, I was seldom incommoded in this way more than a few hours at a time.

As the sun was continually shining, I found, contrary to my first expectations, that although now by account at more than twice the distance of the earth fom the sun, I continued to suffer much more from the heat than the cold. The ether around me being probably a bad conductor of caloric, the heat of the sun's rays was sometimes accumulated on myself and clothes to such a degree as to occasion the utmost inconvenience. I at length resolved, though not without some apprehensions that the step was an imprudent one, to throw off a part of my moveables. It occurred to me that this would be a finer opportunity than any philosopher had hitherto enjoyed, to verify the generally received doctrines of motion. So I stationed myself in a favourable position for watching the result—and having done up one of the blankets and some other burdensome articles into a compact bundle, I gave them a gentle toss directly towards the constellation Sagittarius. By ranging with a particular star, the motion, though slow, appeared perfectly rectilineal and uniform till they at length vanished from my sight.

Having now less burden to carry, and getting daily more out of the reach of the sun's attraction, I found I was approaching, by rapid strides, to the end of my journey. Jupiter's belts were very plainly visible to the naked eye; and his satellites, now in full view, furnished me with a better measure of time than I had hitherto possessed. I generally calculated to make seven nights while the inner satellite was describing four revolutions; and by now and then inserting as I did, an intercalary night, my reckoning must have agreed almost precisely with terrestrial time. The hours now passed very pleasantly away, being generally employed in anticipating the pleasure of setting foot on a new world, in picturing to myself the strange features, customs, &c. of the inhabitants, and in forming schemes for securing a favourable reception among them.

One time as I was deeply musing on these topics, I felt on a sudden a smart blow on the side. I looked that way, but saw nothing; and supposing it might be nothing more than the telescope which was dangling in my pocket, or possibly a slight spasm, I returned to my former train of thought. About half an hour after, I felt another—much gentler indeed than the first, but still so unlike any thing I had felt before on the journey, that my curiosity was roused to ascertain the cause. On turning myself partly round, what should I see a few yards off, but the bundle of clothes I had thrown away two months before! It must have struck me just before, and bounded off by its elasticity. The surprise produced by this, however, was but momentary; for the thought immediately occurred that the bundle and myself were gravitating bodies, and must act like primary and secondary to each other, in the absence of larger masses of matter. The length of time which had intervened was no greater than might be expected; for it is a received principle with astronomers that the smaller the mass, the less is the gravitating force. I wondered that the thought had not struck me before; but it was not now too late to avail myself of the discovery, in lightening my burdens. Accordingly I afterwards determined every morning how many articles I could dispense with during the day—and gave them a slight shove before me; by which I was relieved from all farther inconvenience by them till night. They were seldom entirely out of sight; and I was always sure to find them lying safely by my side the next morning.

*(To be resumed in our next No.)*